



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus

In Hawaii, the focus of WRP is to provide financial and technical assistance to restore, enhance, create, and protect wetlands and their functions, which include:

- **vital habitat for five Endangered waterbirds and numerous migratory birds that overwinter in Hawaii**
- **offshore and nearshore waters and coral reef improvements**
- **flood attenuation, water quality, and water recharge benefits**
- **unique and diverse native plant communities in multiple hydrologic regimes**
- **important habitat for unique candidate species such as Hawaii's native *damselfish***

Endangered Nene Goose



Complexes of restored ponds at Chalon, Big Island of Hawaii



Hawaii Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

Hawaii has lost over 31 percent of its coastal wetlands. Of all of the wetland types that remain, most are degraded by alien invasive plant and animal species and hydrological alterations. WRP in Hawaii is working well to reverse these trends. Seven private landowners participate on three islands, the Big Island of Hawaii, Maui, and Oahu. WRP has provided over \$577,000 to private landowners. With partners' contributions, this has led to over \$1 million worth of wetland restoration in the State.

Currently, WRP in Hawaii has helped to restore and enhance approximately 300 acres of montane wetlands and associated riparian and upland areas, specifically for endangered species such as the Koloa Duck and Nene Goose. Improved habitat for migratory birds, water quality and quantity functions, and other benefits have also been realized.

Accomplishments

WRP in Hawaii has only just begun. In 1998, Hawaii enrolled its first WRP participant at Umikoa Ranch. Complexes of ponds and associated habitat for endangered Koloa Duck and Nene were completed in 2001. Umikoa is also the very first WRP in the United States to have a Safe Harbor's agreement, signed in 2001. For more information, please see the Umikoa website at <http://www.umikoa.com/Conservation.htm>

In Fiscal Year 2001, two landowners signed up for the first WRP projects on the Island of Oahu. These unique projects will restore and enhance habitat for the Endangered Hawaiian Stilt and Endangered Moorhen, and are the first WRP coastal wetland restoration projects in the State.

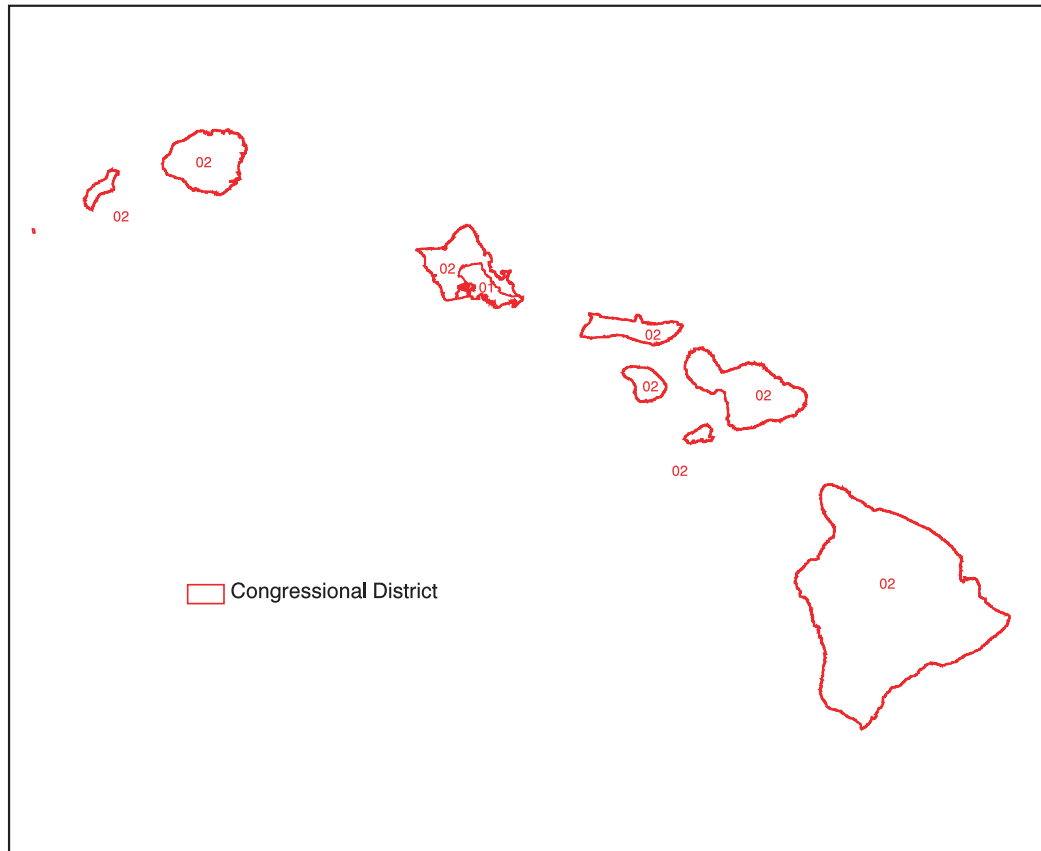
Also in Fiscal Year 2001, one landowner pursued the first perpetual easement and first WRP project on the Island of Kauai. Currently, NRCS is in the planning stages with the landowner and partnering with Ducks Unlimited, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources for the 100-acre restoration project. It promises to become a model project.

Program Benefits

Hawaii's unique WRP projects are excellent examples of how NRCS can work with a variety of partners and private landowners to implement conservation measures that benefit endangered species, migratory waterbirds, and other wetland functions. Over 400 acres are currently being planned for, under existing contracts, which will restore wetlands and their associated habitats.

State contact: Terrell E. Kelley, (808) 541-2600, ext. 109 or Gwen Gilbert, (808) 541-2600, ext. 122

Hawaii Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Hawaii Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1				
District 2	\$100,000.00	2	\$577,200.00	8
District 3				
District 4				
District 5				
District 6				
District 7				
State Totals	\$100,000.00	2	\$577,200.00	8

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.